

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: January YEAR: 2007
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist
	DATE: February 13, 2007
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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A very strong high pressure ridge brought unseasonably bitter cold temperatures and very little precipitation to the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) in January. The cold temperatures led to numerous ice jams across Eastern Idaho raising water levels in some areas to within flood stage. One extensive ice jam resulted in flooding along the Henry's Fork River near Ashton, Idaho. The high water led to a breach in a minor levee on January 21, which caused flooding and road damage along the Old Salem Highway, a secondary highway. The road remained closed for one week. County road and bridge crews continue to repair the highway as well as plan to replace the nearby bridge, which did not incur damage during the flood event.

Record low precipitation amounts were set across the HSA. Idaho Falls recorded its second driest January precipitation total on record receiving only 0.09 inches. The driest January on record for Idaho Falls was in 1961 with only 0.03 inches. Pocatello recorded its fifth driest, Burley tied its fifth driest and Stanley recorded its ninth driest.

Other Hydrologic Interests

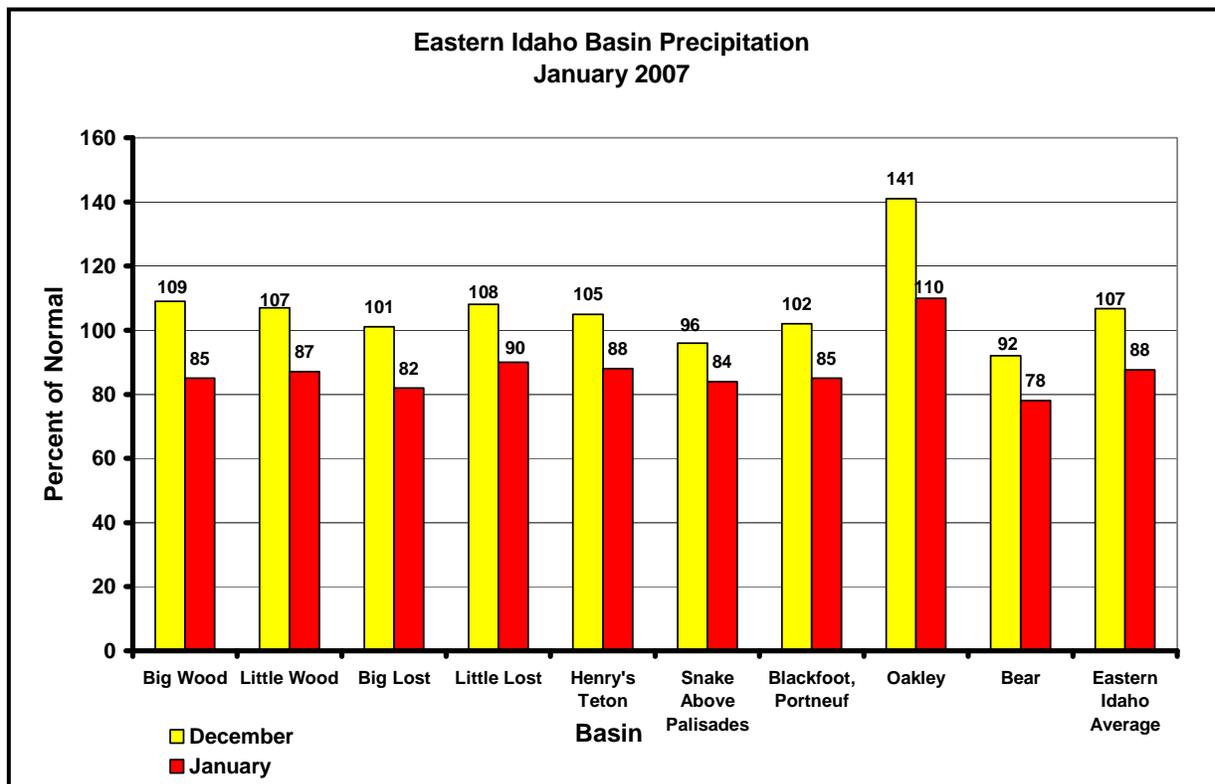
Precipitation

The entire HSA received an average of 46.8% of normal precipitation for 50 of 57 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. The entire HSA received most of its precipitation within the first week of January. Tetonia was the only station to break 100% of normal, recording 117.6% due to an early January snowstorm. Driggs received the second greatest amount of precipitation, yet was only 72.6% of normal. One quarter of the stations received less than 25% of normal precipitation and seven low monthly precipitation records were set, which are shown below.

Station	Precip Inches	Tie / Beat	Previous Record Year	Previous Record Precip Inches
Arco Airport	0.00	tie	1961	0.00
Malta Aviation	0.00	beat	1977	0.01
Oakley	T	beat	1924	0.05
Preston	0.29	tie	1966	0.29
Cutler Plant	0.20	beat	1985	0.27
Plymoth	0.18	beat	2003	0.29
Tremonton	0.13	beat	1985	0.46

Snowpack

Eastern Idaho's snowpack dropped dramatically from a December 31 basin average of 107% to 88% on January 31, which is summarized in the graph below. The Oakley Basin took the greatest hit losing 32% of its December snow water equivalent (SWE), followed by the Big Wood Basin, which lost 27%. The great losses were also revealed in the February 1 Water Supply numbers that declined from 20% in the Upper Snake River Basins to 40% in the Henry's Fork Basin. Such declines will likely not bode well with the upcoming summer's hydrologic needs.



Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 73% of capacity¹, up 6% from January 19, 2007².

Reservoir	% Capacity December 31 ³	% Capacity January 31 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	64	72	8	107	106
Bear Lake	37	37	0	59	135
Blackfoot	46	48	2	77	192
Henry's Lake	93	92	-1	100	96
Island Park	80	84	4	111	122
Little Wood	71	82	11	151	128
Mackay	49	61	12	98	94
Magic	58	60	2	135	203
Oakley	51	53	2	141	130
Palisades	67	70	3	95	115
Ririe	48	51	3	114	100
Lake Walcott	39 ²	40 ¹	1	n/a	n/a
Milner	88 ²	90 ¹	2	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), February 12, 2007; (2) BOR, December 11, 2006; (3) NRCS, December 31, 2006; (4) NRCS, January 31, 2006.

Drought

The drought picture is likely to change soon due to January's record low precipitation. However, at this time, Eastern Idaho remains primarily in the "Abnormally Dry" ranking, D0, which has been unchanged since late August. The northeastern eastern border was lowered to "Drought", D1, near mid December.

January 2007 Hydrologic Product Summary

The following hydrologic products were issued in January.

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flash Flood Statement	0
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	1
Flood Statement	9*
Flood Watch for Flooding	4
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Hydrologic Outlook	0
Hydrologic Statement	5
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
*8 Continuations; 1 Cancellation	

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Drought Monitor Mailing List
Pocatello WFO Forecasters and HMTs